



## News from the Forest Service

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### Off-Highway Vehicle Use, Travel Management Rule

With school out, the arrival of summer and the HIGH cost of gas we are anticipating a very busy summer here this year. With the number of off-highway vehicle riders climbing past 16 million nationally, the sport of OHV use is grabbing attention and we as land managers, are trying to balance its popularity with the nations natural resources. Thus the reason for “Travel Management Rule” (TMR).



*What is the Travel Management Rule?*

In November 2005, the Forest Service announced **final travel management regulations** governing OHV's and other motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands. Under the new rules, forests that do not restrict OHV travel to “designated roads-and-trails” must do so. And OHV's must remain on designated roads and trails systems while on the National Forest. In order to comply with the new rule the Coconino National Forest will be identifying a system of roads, areas, and trails across the entire forest to remain open to motorized use and which will be socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable over time. Designation decisions will be made locally, with public input and in coordination with state, local, and tribal governments.

*The final travel management rule requires each National Forest System unit:*

- Shall designate those roads, trails, and area open to motor vehicle use by vehicle class and, if appropriate, by time of year.
- Designated roads, trails, and areas shall be identified on a motor vehicle use map.
- Once the map is published, motor vehicle use inconsistent with designations is prohibited.
- Until designation is complete, current rules and authorities remain in place.

“ATV Riding can be fun, but it can also be damaging to public lands if you are not responsible!”

The Current Rules are:

- Stay only on roads, trails or other areas designated for ATV use.
- Stay in the middle of the road to avoid widening it.
- On switchbacks, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or brake-sliding during descent, both of which gouge the road.
- On slick roads, moderate the throttle and use the clutch to gain maximum traction with minimum wheel-spin.
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The policy for driving motorized vehicles on national forest land is tied of the State of Arizona's motor vehicle policy. On all state, county and forest roads marked by a horizontally-numbered route marker, the motorized vehicle must be “street legal.” On unmarked forest roads or forest roads that are marked by a vertical route number, the driver and vehicle do not need to be licensed.

The Travel Management Rule is due to be implemented in September 2009



## Earth Healthy Habits (Article from Environmentally Speaking)

There's nothing to fear from going green—after all you'll save money and energy as well as doing your part to combat climate change. That's win, win, win. Changing some bad habits (like leaving lights and computers on) can pay big dividends. Here are some lifestyle changes you can make to reduce your family's carbon footprint:

1. Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows to plug air leaks. CO2 reduction; Up to 1,350 pounds a year.
2. Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for your most-used lights. CO2 reduction (by replacing one frequently used bulb); about 100 pounds a year.
3. Turn off unneeded lights. CO2 reduction; 380 pounds a year.
4. Turn down your water heater thermostat; 130 degrees to kill bacteria if you have a dishwasher, otherwise 120 degrees usually hot enough. CO2 reduction (for each 10 degree adjustment); 500 pounds a year.



## Game and Fish Experts Expect Best Trout Season in Years! (This is a News Release that Game and Fish issued)

MOGOLLON RIM—The deep snow drifts across backcountry mountain roads have melted and now Arizona's picturesque trout lakes in the national forests are not only accessible, most have filled and spilled as well, creating premium fishing conditions not seen in more than a decade!

“This is shaping up to be one of our best trout fishing seasons since the El Nino winter of '96”, said Kirk Young, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's fisheries chief. “Take advantage of this fishing bonanza while it is available. Who knows when we'll see water like this again.”

The lakes in Flagstaff and Williams areas have been open for some time. All of them have been stocked. In fact, Lower Lake Mary near Flagstaff was a huge elk meadow last fall and now not only has plenty of water, it was stocked weeks ago with 28,000 rainbows. Anglers are reporting limits of trout and fun.

The Mogollon Rim lakes and streams are now open and accessible. All the lakes and streams on the national forests in the White Mountains are open and accessible.

Along the Mogollon Rim, anglers at Woods Canyon, Willow Springs and Bear Canyon have reported catching lots of larger hold-over rainbows. Anglers at Big Lake in the White Mountains have been routinely catching larger rainbows and some big cutthroat as well.

“All the lakes are looking good, so just pick your favorite mountain lake and go. Unplug the game boxes, play stations and iPods—load up family and friends, and experience the Arizona outdoors at its best. Don't miss out,” Young advises.

Until next month, *Jean Gilbertson*, Editor

